GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1523
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
CONFERENCE OF SAARC PARLIAMENTARIANS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of SAARC Parliamentarians was held in Shimla in June 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed at the Conference and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether this Conference is proposed to be made an annual feature to promote better understanding among MPs on issues of bilateral importance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. A Conference of SAARC Parliamentarians was held in Shimla on 3 June 2007, organised by a non-governmental organisation, the South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA).

(b)-(d) The Conference Report called "Shimla Declaration: towards South Asian Unity: a Call for Action" discussed regional cooperation, a South Asian Customs Tariff Union, water management, a South Asian grid, fiscal resource management, connectivity and a South Asian Parliament, information society, people-to-people contact, tourism, South Asian human security and South Asian cooperative security.

The Report endorses initiating a process of moving towards the creation of an institutional interactive mechanism.